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HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

היברו יוניון קולג׳ - מכון למדעי היהדות

RABBI DAVID ELLENSON, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

March 21, 2006

FILED
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U.S. DISTRICT COURT, E.D.N.Y.
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BROOKLYN OFFICE

Hon. Edward R. Korman
Chief Judge
United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litig.
In re Application of Burt Neuborne, Civ 06-983(ERK)(JO)

Dear Chief Judge Korman:

I write to support Burt Neuborne's application for an award of attorneys' fees in connection with his post-settlement work as Lead Settlement Counsel. As President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, I have had a number of personal contacts with Professor Neuborne, many of which have dealt with the Neuborne family's efforts to cope with the loss of Professor Neuborne's daughter, Lauren, whose tragic death in 1996 in her final year of rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College remains a source of great sadness to the community. I knew that Professor Neuborne's decision to waive millions of dollars in fees in connection with helping to obtain the Swiss bank settlement was intended to honor Lauren's memory. I also knew that Professor Neuborne reluctantly accepted the responsibilities of Lead Settlement Counsel, some months after the settlement was achieved, out of a sense of duty. It was, however, clear to me – and to any other reasonable observer - that Professor Neuborne's generous gesture in waiving fees for obtaining the settlement did not include an ongoing commitment to work for seven additional years as Lead Settlement Counsel without fee.

I am aware of how intensely Professor Neuborne viewed his responsibilities as Lead Settlement Counsel. His extraordinary devotion to his work, and his commitment to helping to bring the settlement to successful conclusion, were apparent to everyone who knew him. I frankly no of no one I consider more honorable and conscientious than Burt Neuborne. It is troubling that instead of honoring a man who has worked unstintingly and so magnanimously on behalf of Holocaust survivors for the past ten years, he is being subjected to unfair and demeaning criticism simply because he seeks a reasonable fee for his years of devoted service. I do not believe that those who are attacking Professor Neuborne speak for the great bulk of the Jewish community who view his work with gratitude and respect, and who support his request for a reasonable fee.

Sincerely yours,

David Ellenson

Rabbi David Ellenson

cc: Professor Burt Neuborne
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